

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CU-02 AID-05 SY-05 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00
DHA-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 SCA-01 USSS-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /098 W
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O 261649Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8749
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: MADRID IN THE WAKE OF THE VIOLENCE

REF: MADRID 621

1. MADRID IS LARGEY CALM BUT WORRIED AS OF MID DAY JAN 16
FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S BRIEF STUDENT POLICE CLASHES IN THE
UNIVERSITY AREA AND PEACFUL WORK STOPPAGES IN MUCT OF
THE INDUSTRIAL BELT (THE REST OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN
RELATIVELY CALM, EXCEPT FOR PEACFUL STRIKE ACTIVTY)
POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR GROUPS CALLED FOR
CALM. FRAGA OFFERED THE SUPPORT OF THE ALIANZA POPULAR
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TO THE GOS WITH A GAMUT OF POINTS RANGING FROM THE PARTIDO
POPULAR OF AREILZA THROUGH OPPOSITION GROUPS
UP TO AND INCLUDING THE COMMUNISTS PARTY ALL CALLING
FOR PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF THE STREETS AND FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO PERSUE THE KILLERS. IN A LIKE
THE OPPOSITION LABOR COORDINATING MECHANISM (COS)
IN WHICH THE SOCIALST UGTRAND THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED

WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS CALLED FOR PEACFUL WORK STOPPAGES INSIDE THE FACTORY AND FOR WORKERS TO STAY OFF THE STREETS. THE UNIVERSITY REMAINED CLOSED AND HIGH GOVERNMENTS OFFICIALS RESOLUTELY STUCK TO THEIR HEAVY SCHEDULES. THOUGH VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT OSORIO HAS NOW EMBARKED ON HIS BRIEF VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD US THAT PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ HAD RELUCTANTLY CANCELLED HIS VISIT TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES(MADRID 104 NOTAL) INSTEAD FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WILL GO. THE CANCELLATION, OF COURSE IS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO SUAREZ, BUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE OBVIOUSLY FELT HE COULD NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY. THE CABINET IS HOLDING A SPECIAL MEETING TODAY TO CONSIDER AMONG OTHER THINGS THE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION.

2. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT THE ASSASSINATIONS MARKED A LAST DITCH VIOLENT EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE EXTREME RIGHT TO PROVOKE THE LEFT INTO THE STREETS AND THE HOPE THAT SOME GENERAL WOULD COME FORWARD TO TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO THE FRANCO ERA. IN THIS, AS THE RESPECTED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT ANTON CAYELLES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR, THE FAR LEFT GRAPO'S KIDNAPPINGS GIVE A COUNTER POINT IN WHICH EXTREMES OF RIGHT AND LEFT FEED UPON EACH OTHER. AT THE SAME TIME HE SAID THE OPPOSITION HAS GIVEN A BALK CHECK TO PRIMIN SUAREZ AND THE GOS IS IN A GOOD POSITION TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY WITH OUT COMPLAINT FROM THE USUALLY CARPING OPPISTION. THE MILITARY DESPITE THE RUMORS APPEARING IN

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THE PRESS, SEEM FIRMLY DISPOSED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT AND THE KING, RECONCILING THAT THEY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE TO PUSHING THROUGH WITH THE REFORM PROCESS.

3. THE MADRID CIVIL GOVERNORS OFFICE APPEALED FOR SERENITY AND NOTED THE PUBLIC ORDER FORCES WERE OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS, WHILE CARDINAL TARANCO URGED "THE RAPID RESTABLISHMENT OF CONDITIONS OF LIFE WHICH, AS UP TO NOW, HAVE MADE POSSIBLE PEACE, CO EXISTENCE AND THE PROGRESS OF OUR BELOVED NATION". THE NEW ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. GENERAL VEGA RODRIGUEZ, WHO TOOK OFFICE JANUARY 25, CALLED THE VILLAESCUSA KIDNAPPING A "STUPID AND USELESS PROVOCATION", DECLARED "THE ARMY HAS DEMONSTRATED, IN AN UNQUESTIONABLE MANNER, IT APOLITICISM, IT SERENITY AND ITS CONFIDENCE", AND CATEGORICALLY REJECTED RUMORS OF THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE OF EXCEPTION. SOCIALIST (POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY) LEADER TIENRO GALVAN REITERATED HIS PERENNIAL SUGGESTION FOR A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL COALITION WHICH, WITHOUT MEANING TO DRAMATIZE

WOULD ALMOST TAKE THE FORM OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION", AN IDEA WHICH PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRIVATLEY DERIDED TO US. THE LIBERAL LEFT EL PAIS URGED THAT WHILE PRIME MINISTR SUAREZ REMAINS IN OFFICE, THE CABINET BE REPLACED WITH BROADLY REPRESENTATIVES FIGURES IN A "GOVERNMENT OF RECONCILIATION".

4. WHILE THE CALLS FOR NOR VIOLENT STRIKE ACTIVITY AS IN THE PAST, LEFT MADRID ITSELF LOOKING LARGELY NORMAL FEARS CONTUINED OVER A POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF VIOLENCE INTERIOR MINISTRY, AFTER SOME HESITATION AUTHORIZED THE ESTABLISHEMENT OF A VIGIL JANUARY 26 AT THE LAWYERS COLLEGE (PROFESSIONAL ASSOICATION) FOR THE FIVE MURDERED IN THE LABOR LAWYERS OFFICE, AND THAT VIGIAL AND THE SUBSEQUENT BURIAL (SCHEDULED FOR 4 PM MADRID TIME JANUARY 26) WERE THE MOST OBVIOUS POTENTIAL HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BROAD REPULSION AGAINST THE VIOLENCE OF THE LAST FEW DAYS

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WOULD HELP HEAD OFF FURTHER INCIDENTS. A TELEPHONE CALL OF UNCONFIRMED AUTHENTICITY TO A NEWS AGENCY IN BARCEONA CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHOOTINGS AND FOR THE MURDER JANUARY 23 OF ARTURO RUIZ GARCIA FOR THE UNKNOWN APOSTOLIC ANTI COMMUNIST ALLIANCE OF SPAIN. IN CONNECTION WITH THE RUIZ SHOOTING POLICE ARRESTED SOME 22 PERSONS, MOST OF THEM FOREIGN, AND EXTREME RIGHT "CRISTO REY" CHIEF MARIANO SANCHEZ COVISA REMAINED IN CUSTODY.

5. ONE OF THOSE NAMED BY POLICE AS PARTICIPATING IN THE VILLAESCUSA KIDNAPPING, ANGEL GUISANDE COVELO AND WAS FOUND IN THE REMOTE CITY OF VIGO WHERE RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES TESTIFIED HE HAD BEEN ALL ALONG. POLICE HELD HIM BRIEFLY, THEN RELEASED HIM. THERE WERE OTHERWISE NO DEVELOPMENT. STABLER

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